

REMARKS

The Official Action of April 12, 2006, and the references cited therein have been carefully considered. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks. Claims 11-19 have been canceled without prejudice and rewritten as new Claims 20-27. Support for this amendment is found in the specification, e.g. at page 4, lines 24-30; page 5, lines 1-16; and the claims of the application as filed.

Claims 20-27 are pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 18 and 19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement.

The Examiner was also concerned regarding the “treatment and prevention of anxiety, convulsions or cognitive disorders”. Although Applicants respectfully assert that the specification fully enables such claims, in the interest of compact prosecution, these claims have been canceled. In this regard, Applicants note that the compounds of the present invention are GABA_A receptor subtype ligands having a binding affinity (K_i) for the $\alpha 2$ and/or $\alpha 3$ and/or $\alpha 5$ subunit and a selective affinity for the $\alpha 2/3/5$ subunits relative to the $\alpha 1$ subunit which allows them to be of use in the treatment or prevention of a variety of disorders of the central nervous system. The ability of the compounds to exhibit anxiolytic activity, anticonvulsant activity or cognitive enhancement can be further demonstrated by the procedures described on page 10, lines 5-6, page 10, lines 12-15, and page 20, lines 11-16.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement has been overcome.

II. Rejection of Claims 11-15 and 17-19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 11-15 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

The Examiner was concerned with respect to the term "hydrocarbon" and the claim dependencies. Applicants respectfully assert that the specification fully enables such claim language and the claims particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter that they regard as their invention, but in the interest of compact prosecution, they have amend the claims with respect to such terms and adjusted the claim dependencies in presenting new Claims 20-27.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 11-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness has been overcome.

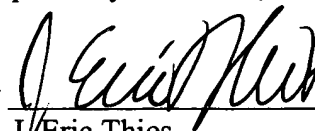
III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledge that Claim 16 is allowed.

Applicants respectfully contend that the application is allowable and a favorable response from the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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